

THE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF OLDBURY.

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
HEALTH OF OLDBURY,

FOR THE  
**Year ending December 31st, 1897.**


BY  
*ANDREW CUNNINGHAM, M.B., C.M.*  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

---

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL.

---

OLDBURY:  
THE MIDLAND PRINTING COMPANY, LIMITED, SIMPSON STREET.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30092486>

THE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF OLDBURY.

---

**MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT**  
*FOR 1897.*

---

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present you with my Annual Report for 1897.

The General death-rate is 16·8, the average for the last 10 years being 21·2. This is the lowest death-rate we have yet experienced with the exception of the year 1894, when it was 16·6. This highly satisfactory death-rate is also accompanied with the equally satisfactory Zymotic death-rate of 1·3. The average for the 10 preceding years is 2·4. This also is the lowest Zymotic death-rate we have yet experienced with the exception of that in 1894, which was 1·2.

The Infantile Mortality this year is 184, comparing with 214 on the previous year, or the difference of 30; thus reducing our death-rate from 37·9 in 1896 to 37·1 in the present year. The average birth-rate for the preceding 10 years is 39·4, and the Infantile mortality per 1000 births during the same period is 201.

**VITAL STATISTICS.**

The following table of Vital Statistics gives the statistics for the present year, and those for the preceding 10 years, with the average of the same.

TABLE I.—*Ten Years' Vital Statistics, 1887 to 1896 inclusive.*

	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	Average for 10 Years 1887-96.	1897
General Death Rate per 1000 of population ...	20.5	22.3	18.4	20.8	23.5	24.6	22.8	16.6	19	22.9	21.2	16.8
Zymotic Death Rate per 1000 of population ...	2.5	2.4	2.8	2.4	2.2	1.9	3.1	1.2	1.5	4.1	2.4	1.3
Number of Deaths from Diarrhoea ...	16	18	15	18	4	1	13	9	20	8	12	15
Diarrhoea Death Rate per 1000 Births ...	18.8	22.4	18.7	23.2	4.4	1.1	15.4	10.8	22.6	0.3	13.7	14
Number of Births ...	847	804	800	773	906	892	841	833	882	920	849	936
Infantile Mortality per 1000 Births ...	200	208	166	226	199	215	217	172	202	214	201	184
Birth Rate ...	40.9	38.2	37.5	35.3	44.4	43.3	40.4	39.6	36.9	37.9	39.4	37.1

The following table gives the population to the middle of 1897, compared with the population in 1896, and shows the increase in each Ward. From it you will see that the Central and Rounds Green Wards have increased very little in comparison with the other three; the Warley Ward showing the largest increase, having 296; followed closely by the Langley Ward, with 280, and the Broadwell Ward with 213.

TABLE II.

*Population of each Ward in 1897, compared with 1896.*

WARDS	1897.	1896.	Increase.
Central ... ..	5743	5660	83
Broadwell ... ..	5133	4920	213
Langley ... ..	5820	5540	280
Rounds Green ... ..	5336	5300	36
Warley ... ..	3140	2844	296
TOTAL ... ..	25,172	24,264	908

*Number of Inhabited Houses in each Ward in 1897,  
compared with number in 1896.*

WARDS.	Inhabited Houses in 1896.	Inhabited Houses in 1897.	Number of Voids in 1897.	Total Houses.
Central ... ..	1031	1047	38	1085
Broadwell ... ..	964	1005	21	1026
Langley ... ..	1118	1172	26	1198
Rounds Green ... ..	984	991	34	1025
Warley ... ..	572	629	20	649
TOTAL ... ..	4669	4844	139	4983

TABLE III.—POPULATION and BIRTHS, estimated to middle of 1897.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purposes of these Statistics.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1897.	
Central Ward ... ..	22,697	5743	936
Broadwell Ward ... ..		5133	
Langley Ward ... ..		5820	
Rounds Green Ward ... ..		5336	
Warley ... ..		3140	
Totals ... ..	22,697	25,172	936

The total increase of population during the year is 908. This gives us 25,172, as the estimated population to the middle of 1897. The number of inhabited houses is 4844, giving an average of 5·1 persons per house. The increase in the number of inhabited houses during the year is 175. The total number of houses in the township, including voids, is now 4983.

TABLE IV.

The area in Acres of the Township of Oldbury is	...	...	3548
Population, 1881	...	...	21,042
„ 1891	...	...	22,697
Increase 1881-91	..	...	1659
Estimated Population, 1897	...	...	25,172

**Births.**—The total number of Births is 936, 471 being males, and 465 females. Birth Rate, 37·1.

TABLE V.

MORTALITY PER 1000 OF POPULATION LIVING DURING 1897.

Birth Rate	...	...	37·1	Measles Death Rate	...	0
Death Rate	...	...	16·8	Scarlatina Death Rate	...	0·2
Zymotic Death Rate	...	...	1·3	Diphtheria Death Rate	...	0
Infantile Mortality	...	...	184	Whooping Cough Death Rate	...	0·1
Phthisis Death Rate	...	...	0·6	Fever Death Rate	...	0·3
Resp. Death Rate	...	...	4	Diarrhœa Death Rate	...	0·5
Small Pox Death Rate	...	...	0	Cancer Death Rate	...	0·1

**Deaths.**—There were 423 deaths during the year, 234 of these being males and 189 females. The death-rate is thus 16·8, with a 10 years' average of 21·2, as I have previously stated. The number of deaths in the various Wards is as follows :—

Central Ward	-	-	118
Broadwell Ward	-	-	81
Langley Ward	-	-	101
Rounds Green Ward	-	-	90
Warley Ward -	-	-	33

The following tables give you these figures, classified according to age, as classified by Local Government Board Orders.

TABLE VI.

REGISTERED BIRTHS.			REGISTERED DEATHS.		
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
471	465	936	234	189	423

MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.					
Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
173	52	17	11	100	70

TABLE VII.—*DEATHS during the Year 1897, in the OLDBURY URBAN DISTRICT; classified according to AGES and Localities.*

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.			MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
			At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and Under 5.	5 and Under 15.	15 and Under 25.	25 and Under 65.	65 and Upwards.
Central Ward	...	...	118	55	14	4	2	26	16
Broadwell Ward	...	...	81	33	12	1	4	21	10
Langley Ward	...	...	101	39	12	6	2	24	18
Rounds Green Ward...	...	...	90	36	10	3	2	20	19
Warley Ward	...	...	33	10	4	3	1	8	7
Totals	...	...	423	173	52	17	11	100	70

TABLE VIII.—*DEATHS during the Year 1897, in the Oldbury*

MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING						
NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.				Scarlatina.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever
Central Ward	...	...	Under 5	1	...	...
"	"	...	5 upwards	...	...	4
Broadwell Ward	...	...	Under 5	2	1	...
"	"	...	5 upwards	...	...	...
Langley Ward	...	...	Under 5	1	...	...
"	"	...	5 upwards	...	...	2
Rounds Green Ward	...	...	Under 5	...	...	...
"	"	...	5 upwards	...	...	1
Warley Ward	...	...	Under 5	1	...	...
"	"	...	5 upwards	1	...	1
TOTALS			...	...	...	...
			Under 5	5	1	...
			5 upwards	1	...	8



*Urban District ; Classified according to DISEASES and AGES.*

DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.								
Erysipelas.	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases	TOTALS.
...	1	9	...	25	...	...	33	69
...	...	...	3	17	4	4	17	49
1	1	3	...	10	...	...	27	45
...	...	...	2	15	4	...	15	36
...	...	1	...	12	...	1	37	51
...	...	...	6	6	4	1	31	50
...	1	2	...	12	...	1	30	46
...	...	1	2	13	5	2	20	44
...	1	...	...	...	1	...	12	15
...	...	...	3	6	...	...	7	18
1	4	14	...	59	1	2	139	226
...	...	1	16	57	17	7	90	197

**Zymotic Diseases.**—We have been very fortunate in our deaths from Zymotic Diseases, and I herewith give you a table of deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, as they occurred in the various Wards. Three of those seven principal Zymotics are not notifiable, but I give you now a table of the diseases that are notifiable, and have been notified to me during the year :—

TABLE IX.—*Number of Cases notified, with Result and Deaths.*

	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Fever.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever
Cases ... ..	4	Not Notified.	121	1	1	35	31	0
Deaths ... ..	0		6	0	0	8	1	0
Hospital Cases ..	4							
„ Deaths ...	0							

**Scarlet Fever,** you will see, is considerably more prevalent than any of the others, and most marked in the Warley Ward. At one time it appeared as if it would become epidemic, but, soon beginning to show spontaneous subsidence, we did not find it necessary to close any of the schools. By persistent and strenuous efforts in following up cases, securing the best isolation possible, and most effective disinfection, we managed to reduce it to its normal average of sporadic cases.

**Typhoid Fever.**—The Central Ward is that which suffered most from this disease, and in all we have had 35 cases in the whole township.

**Small-pox.**—We had one case of this disease imported into the Central Ward from neighbouring authorities, and three into the Langley Ward. Having our Small-pox Hospital and beds in perfect readiness for the immediate reception of these patients in view of this expected contingency, the patients were immediately removed, and disinfection and isolation adopted as on previous occasions. No further cases occurred, and each of them made a good recovery. This is in accordance with our previous experience, and clearly has shown us over and over again that immediate removal to Hospital and scrupulous disinfecting will stamp the disease out at any time.

**Diphtheria.**—One case only of this occurred, and that in the Warley Ward, which made a good recovery.

TABLE X.—*Zymotic Deaths during 1897 in each Ward.*

				Scarlet Fever.	Measles.	Erysipelas.	Whooping Cough	Typhoid.	Diarrhea.	TOTALS.
Central	...	...	...	1	...	0	1	4	9	15
Broadwell	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	0	3	7
Langley	...	...	...	1	...	...	0	2	0	3
Rounds Green	...	...	...	0	...	...	1	1	3	5
Warley	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	0	4
TOTALS	...	...	...	6	...	1	4	8	15	34

TABLE XI.—*Zymotic cases of Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health under the Notification Act.*

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purposes of these Statistics. Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.				Small Pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	TOTALS.
Central Ward	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	16	...	4	33
Broadwell Ward	...	...	...	...	23	...	1	5	...	4	33
Langley Ward	...	...	...	...	28	...	...	6	1	7	42
Rounds Green Ward	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	5	...	12	23
Warley	...	...	...	...	51	1	...	3	...	4	59
Small Pox Hospital	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	..	4
Totals	...	...	...	4	121	1	1	35	1	31	194

Number of such cases removed from their homes in the several localities for treatment in the Isolation Hospital:—  
Small Pox—4.

TABLE XII.—*Mortality from Subjoined Causes.*

Scarlatina.	Croup (not "spasmodic.")	Whooping Cough	Enteric or Typhoid.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Erysipelas.
6	1	4	8	15	1
Cancer.	Phthisis.	Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	Other Diseases.
4	16	116	18	9	229

**Water Supply for Warley.**—In my last report to you on this subject, it was my pleasure to congratulate you on having completed satisfactory negotiations with the South Staffordshire Water Works Company for the supply of that district. I am pleased that since then the work has been done, and that now we are in a position to effect connections whenever desired, or wherever we find it necessary. The inhabitants, so far, have shown a willingness to take advantage of the facilities they have thus acquired.

**Drainage of Warley.**—This scheme has received a great deal of your attention, and the difficulties of effectually draining this district have been surmounted. Mr. Eayrs' report and specification, now in your hands, shows what appears to be the only effectual and complete scheme by which it can be accomplished. The cost is our greatest difficulty, but will have to be borne sooner or later. We did hope some time ago to have accomplished our object at a very much less cost. We hoped to effect the drainage of the off-side of Warley by effecting terms with the Tame and Rea Drainage Board. In this we utterly failed, as they had already as much drainage as they could possibly undertake. As it is, we are obliged on that side to construct a Sewage Farm for treating the sewage, and also a Pumping Station for those portions towards our boundary which lie too low to reach the outfall by gravitation.

**Sewage Disposal.**—The new scheme of Sewage Disposal, described in my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1895, has been completed and is now working. As then explained, the sewage is being chemically treated with iron salts, and lime, after which it passes into eight precipitation tanks for the precipitation of the solid matters. Thence it is first passed on to the land, after which it is conveyed into the artificial filters and dealt with on aerobic biological principles. Eight filters, having a total area of 800 square yards, are worked intermittently, experience having proved, after exhaustive experiments, that periods of rest are necessary. Fairly good effluents have thus been obtained, and the nuisance which formerly arose from the sludge has been entirely removed. There is no doubt that when the additional filters you have decided upon, are laid down that still further improvements in the effluent will be effected.

Appended is the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, with summary of Sanitary Work done throughout the year.

The increase in this kind of work at the furthest extremity of the Warley district, from building operations, renders it more arduous every year.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**ANDREW CUNNINGHAM, M.B.,**

Medical Officer of Health.

## THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF OLDBURY.

---

### The Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

---

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report of the Sanitary Work completed in the year ending December 31st, 1897.

The Sanitary Work which has been in progress, and which has been carried out, is of a varied and important nature, and has done much towards raising the condition of the Township to a more satisfactory state. We have kept a vigilant eye on the old and dilapidated dwellings, and where it was possible we have had such repairs executed which would render them more healthy, so that, if possible, to cause persons who habitually disregard the simplest rules of decency and cleanliness, who sometimes occupy these tenements, to be more cleanly, and, as far as circumstances will admit, comfortable; but where the houses and premises were in such a condition that it was impossible to repair them or make them fit for habitation we have made representations to the owners with the object of having them closed as unfit for occupancy, and where we found the owners unwilling to accede to our request an Order has been made by the Council for the closing of the same. Thus about 24 of these tenements have been closed, some of which have been demolished. There have also been 58 houses repaired and made fit for habitation. Likewise a great improvement has been effected in the condition of the yards and premises, and the surroundings of houses; in many instances old and dilapidated privies were done away with, and water or slop closets introduced; while in others privies and ashpits on your approved plans have been provided.

Another matter which has received our attention is the paving of small areas, and the alteration and re-construction of old and improperly constructed sink drains, thus remedying a great nuisance, and making the premises more healthy and decent in appearance. But we cannot forget the fact that there is much yet that remains to be accomplished in the re-construction of old and improperly constructed privy-middens to make them more wholesome, and the provision of proper doors and coverings to ashpits.



There is also a great change to be wrought in the common methods of ordinary people, so that they may be taught to cleanse, flush, and keep clean the traps and gullies in yards, so that the common nuisance may be obviated of blocked drains and sewage-polluted surroundings.

**Infectious Disease.**—We are still carrying out a careful and systematic enquiry into the cases of infectious disease reported to the Medical Officer, and where possible giving any needful help; a good supply of disinfectants is provided, the premises are thoroughly inspected, and should any defect appear in the sanitary arrangements prompt measures are taken to remedy the evil, and when the patient has been removed to the hospital, or, if remaining at home, has sufficiently recovered, the bedding and clothing is disinfected, and the house is subjected to a thorough fumigation and disinfection, and afterwards stripped, cleansed, and limewashed according to the directions of the Medical Officer.

**Factory and Workshops' Acts.**—We have served several notices to provide proper sanitary conveniences to factories, and other additional works have been executed according to instructions given to the owners, and in the future this work will continue to have our best attention.

**Dairies and Cowsheds.**—This matter is one which we are pursuing with steady perseverance. The Cowsheds and Dairies throughout the whole of the district are in a dilapidated condition or are improperly constructed, not a single premises being in accordance with our regulations; and, therefore, with the necessary alterations having to be made at every place, some time must elapse before a satisfactory condition of things can be realised, while at the same time there are certain prejudices which have to be broken down which in some measure hinders the progress of the work.

**Water Supply.**—We have submitted many samples of water to the Medical Officer for analysis, with the result that nine wells have been closed as polluted and unfit for domestic purposes, and the Water Works' supply provided. Thus year by year the water supply is improving, so that in the immediate township but few shallow wells remain as sources of water supply.

**Food.**—We have visited periodically the shops, stores, and stalls where different articles were exposed for sale intended for human food; and we seized a quantity of Beef, Fish, Fowls, and Rabbits, which were certified by the Medical Officer as unfit for the food of man, and which afterwards were taken before a Justice of the Peace, who, after examination, gave an order to destroy them, which was accordingly done; and in each case prosecutions were instituted by order of the Council, and fines varying in amount were imposed in every case by the Justices.

**Canal Boats' Inspection.**—I beg to state there has been a manifest wish on the part of the owners of boats, and also of the masters, to comply with the Canal Boats' Acts and Regulations, and for

this reason it has been found unnecessary to serve a large number of notices to cause contraventions to cease, as, after an interview with them, they have in many cases done the necessary work, or have ceased infringing the Acts and Regulations, or have caused the contravention to cease ; and we find that, year by year, with a careful and vigilant supervision, the complaints and infringements are growing gradually fewer in number, so that while we have inspected 234 boats, there have been 11 contraventions of the Acts and Regulations, and the chief of these have been boats without pumps, but by reason of the absence of bilge water in the boat or underneath the cabin floor we did not proceed further, advising them to provide proper pumps, and warning them that if it was neglected and water was found in the boats, we should proceed against them to provide proper pumps for its removal. I have also to say that the clean and orderly appearance of the majority of the boats and their occupants distinctly point to the fact that the Canal Boats' Acts and Regulations are working well in the district. We are also pleased to say that we have had no case of infectious sickness in any of the boats during the year.

I append a summary of Sanitary Work, also a statistical supplement of Canal Boats' Inspection.

Gentlemen,

I am your obedient servant,

GEORGE H. ROBBINS,

Sanitary and Canal Boats' Inspector.

---

### **Summary of Sanitary Work completed in the year ending December 31st, 1897.**

	No.
No. of Complaints - - - - -	30
Notices issued for the Abatement of Nuisances - - -	130
Notices complied with - - - - -	120
Notices outstanding - - - - -	10
HOUSES—	
Erected - - - - -	105
Repaired - - - - -	58
Closed as Unfit for Human Habitation - - -	24
No. Demolished - - - - -	17
No. Cleansed and Limewashed - - - - -	50
OVERCROWDING—	
Cases Abated - - - - -	6



HOUSE DRAINS—	No
Drains Laid or Re-laid - - - -	79
Cleansed, Trapped, or Ventilated - - - -	54
Sink Pipes Properly Disconnected - - - -	10
Lavatories or Urinals Built or Repaired - - - -	8
No. of Dumb-wells Rectified - - - -	2
WATER CLOSETS—	
No. of Additional W. C's provided - - - -	12
No. Repaired, Ventilated, or Supplied with Flush Cisterns	6
PRIVIES AND ASHPITS—	
No. of Additional Privies and Ashpits Provided— Closets 48, Ashpits	47
No. Converted to W. C's or Slop Closets - - - -	19
No. Repaired or Re-constructed—Closets 30, Ashpits -	30
SCAVENGING—	
No. of Houses from which Refuse is Removable - -	4944
No. of Privies and Ashpits cleansed. - - - -	11215
OFFENSIVE TRADES—	
No. under Observation - - - -	2
WATER SUPPLY—	
No. of Wells Sunk - - - -	2
No. of Wells Closed as Polluted - - - -	9
No. of Houses Supplied from Water Works during the Year - - - -	155
SLAUGHTER-HOUSES—	
Registered or Licensed - - - -	8
No. Regularly Inspected - - - -	8
No. Cleansed and Repaired - - - -	8
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—	
No. under Inspection - - - -	36
No. Cleansed and Lime-washed - - - -	2
No. of Insanitary Conditions dealt with - - - -	4
BAKEHOUSES—	
Inspected - - - -	8
Repaired, Cleansed, and Lime-washed - - - -	8
LODGING-HOUSES—	
Registered - - - -	2
Regularly Inspected - - - -	2
Repaired, Cleansed, and Lime-washed - - - -	2
FOODS—	
No. of Seizures as unfit for human consumption -	4
ANIMALS KEPT SO AS TO BE A NUISANCE—	
Cases of Removal - - - -	6
OFFENSIVE ACCUMULATIONS—	
Removal of Dung, House Refuse, &c. - - - -	36
Other Nuisances Abated not named on Schedule -	40

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE—				No.
No. of Cases of Infectious Disease enquired into	-	-	-	189
No. of Patients removed to Hospital	-	-	-	4
Lots of Bedding and Clothing Disinfected or Destroyed	-	-	-	170
No. of Houses Disinfected, Stripped, Cleansed, and Lime Washed	-	-	-	130

### Canal Boats' Acts, 1877 and 1884.

234 Cabin Boats were Inspected, Registered for 770½ Adults.  
 223 Boats were conforming to the Acts and the Local Government Regulations.

Total number occupying Cabins of adult life	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	512
Male adults	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	400
Female adults	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	112
Children of School Age	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65
Boys -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
Girls -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37
Children under School age	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Boys -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Girls -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11

#### Details of Ages of Children—

Years—13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Boys—5	1	5	4	4	2	2	1	4	3	6	0	2
Girls—0	2	4	6	6	7	2	6	4	3	2	2	3

Boys under 1 year of age, c ; Girls under 1 year of age, 1.

#### Details showing numbers infringing the Acts and Regulations—

No. of Cases met with,				No. of Cases remedied.			
1	Registration	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Absence of Certificate	-	-	-	-	2	-
1	Marking	-	-	-	-	1	-
7	Without Pump	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total 11				Total 3			



